



"That isn't necessary, sir... we don't care what time you come in!"

### Health of School Children Is Major Responsibility of Parents

By K. H. Sutherland, M.D., County Medical Officer  
In a very short time children will be starting to school, and whether or not they are adequately prepared for the experience depends almost wholly on the adults who are responsible for their welfare. Chief among these individuals are the child's parents.

There are certain questions that all parents should ask themselves before their child starts to school and perhaps the most important one is, "When did my child last have a complete examination by a physician?" If more than a year has elapsed since it was given, another physical check-up is due.

FOR, WHEN all is said and done, it is parents who have the major responsibility for the health of their children, whether of school age or younger. In the case of the school-age child, however, it is a responsibility that school officials must share because so much of the child's time is spent in the school environment. Community agencies are also concerned in varying degrees, particularly health departments which provide immunizations against certain communicable diseases.

Public schools in Los Angeles county generally provide certain health services when a child enters school and these include a physical examination, a dental check-up, and vision and hearing tests. These tests should be repeated at intervals throughout the child's school life, otherwise any deviations from the normal that later develop may go undetected for several years—or at least long enough for them to become chronic and serious—unless teachers, school nurses, and parents are sufficiently alert to detect the signs that may reveal all is not well with the child.

IT IS PREFERABLE for parents to have a periodic consultation with the teacher or school nurse and, if not informed, it is their task to find out precisely what observations have been made on their child's physical condition and personality, what tests have been given and the findings of these tests, and if, through accident or neglect on their part, there has been any lack of follow-up on recommendations that may previously have been made by the school physician or nurse.

A conference of this nature provides the parent an excellent opportunity to discover whether there are any social or national maladjustments that may have developed which, owing to the opportunity for observation and to training and experience, the teacher is most likely to observe.

NO REMEDIABLE handicapping condition in a child should ever go uncorrected. When parents cannot afford the necessary medical or technical assistance required, there are nearly always resources within every community to provide whatever is needed—aid that may range from a hearing device or glasses to the services of a child psychologist.

It is current opinion that the teacher is a key person in the school health program since it is the teacher that has the child under day-long observation. Indeed, the effectiveness of a school health program depends a great deal on the teacher's conscientious observation of each child's physical and mental development.

It is also the teacher who is best situated to make health services an educational experience for the children under her care, so that healthful living habits and knowledge of the body's functions will remain with them through the years. By way of the children she may also reach the parents and perchance correct faulty health habits within the family group.

THE HEALTH of the school child is increasingly the focus of attention in this disturbed and disturbing world, for children find it more difficult to reach their full potential as responsible and well-adjusted adults when struggling against some physical or mental handicap. This is particularly unfortunate when the defect is one that can be corrected.

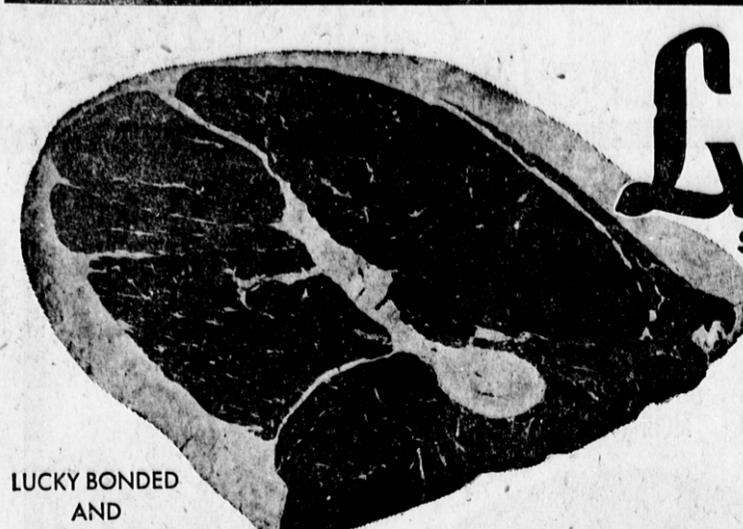
It is worth remembering that although the skills and services of a number of individuals including professional workers in schools and in voluntary and public agencies are freely given, the primary responsibility for the health of the school child rests with the parents who, whenever possible, should keep the child under the supervision of the family physician.

### Nurses to Get Certificates, Pins Sept. 8

Harbor College Vocational Nursing students will receive certificates and pins Sept. 8th at 8 p.m. in ceremonies to be held at First Baptist Church located at 2118 W. Carson St.

These students will have completed a year of study which includes training at Harbor General Hospital. Persons interested in enrolling in the fall semester class may obtain full particulars by contacting Miss Roberta Lindberg at Harbor College in Wilmington.

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